

What's Inside?

PTO Executive Board, p. 2
[\[click here\]](#)

Books for Kids Drive, p. 2
[\[click here\]](#)

Ridge Recognition, p. 3
[\[click here\]](#)

Mid-Term Schedule, p. 6
[\[click here\]](#)

Fall Dance Master Class, p. 6
[\[click here\]](#)

next Friday!

Upcoming Events

1/13 Winter Dance
Showcase, 7pm
(see p. 4)

1/25-1/31 Mid-terms (see
p. 6)

2/3 Ridge Skate Night
(see p. 5)

From the Desk of the Principal

Grading! Mention the concept and duck as a myriad of heated opinions come your way. No other topic grabs the attention of parents, teachers and students so quickly and is felt so deeply. [\[click - more on p. 5\]](#)

From the PTO Co-Presidents

Testing at Ridge High School: The end of January marks the end of the second marking period; the end of the second marking period brings midterm examinations. Here are some guidelines... [\[click - more on p. 2\]](#)

Guidance Department News

The Guidance Department is busy helping all students all year long. This month, the emphasis is on Juniors working on college applications, academic planning for incoming freshmen, and a special news-letter for AP students. [\[click - more on p. 3\]](#)

"The Secret Garden" Will Delight

This spring, the Ridge Drama Club will entertain audiences with "The Secret Garden," based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel of the same name. [\[click - more on p. 4\]](#)

Ridge Skate Night

The Ridge Ice Hockey Association is hosting a skate night for all. All profits benefit the Ridge Ice Hockey Association and ice hockey teams at Ridge High School. You may even get to skate with your favorite Ridge Hockey player!! [\[click - more on p. 5\]](#)

PTO INFORMATION

2011-12 Ridge PTO Executive Board

<i>Co-Presidents</i>	Sarah Bonnefoi sarahbonnefoi@yahoo.com Tracey Tuthill gooserocks@optonline.net
<i>1st Vice President-Volunteers</i>	Sharon Power sharonpower@optonline.net
<i>2nd Vice President-Programs</i>	Kathy Whitman kcwhit4@verizon.net
<i>3rd Vice President-Newsletter</i>	Sue Frost sue_frost@mac.com
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<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Candice Hull hullscr@verizon.net
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Thank You for Donations to the Books for Kids Drive!

A big Thank You to all who contributed to the annual Books for Kids Drive. Ridge High School collected 1,379 books that were distributed to needy youngsters throughout New Jersey. Your generosity is overwhelming.

Numbers alone don't tell the entire story. The beautiful books donated by the Ridge High community certainly warmed the hearts of many needy children who did not have any books of their own.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Accidental Error

In the December 2 issue, we mistakenly credited the wrong person for writing the Ridge Forensics article. Our apologies go to Akshaya Sekar, Grade 11, the actual author of the article. Thank you for letting us know!

The Ridge PTO Monthly

Editor: Sue Frost

Submissions for the Feb. 3 Friday Folder issue are due Jan. 17 to ridgepto@yahoo.com. Questions and inquiries can be sent to that email address.

From the Co-Presidents, from p. 1

Testing at Ridge High School: The end of January marks the end of the second marking period; the end of the second marking period brings midterm examinations. Here are some guidelines about Ridge testing.

General/non-midterm testing at Ridge:

For any evaluation lasting more than fifteen minutes, teachers of the different subject matters test according to the following schedule:

Monday English, Science*, Industrial Arts, Fine Arts, Music

Tuesday World Languages, Mathematics, Health, Business Education

Wednesday Social Studies, English, Fine Arts

Thursday Science*, World Languages, Music, Industrial Arts, Health

Friday Mathematics, Social Studies, Business Education

*Some sciences, due to lab scheduling, will not test on days listed. In such cases, teachers will provide students with an alternate testing schedule.

Tests may be scheduled on religious holidays. When a student is missing school on the day of an evaluation because of observance of a religious holiday, parents are responsible for informing the school of the conflict. Ridge will provide students with a reasonable accommodation meaning the school and/or teacher will make every effort to reschedule the test date for any student who is out on the actual exam day.

Midterms

All students have the right to ask for their corrected midterm examination. Though teachers may not offer to return the corrected tests, they are required to return them if asked to do so. If there are any issues with a teacher not willing to return the exam, the administration will intervene on the student's behalf.

The schedule for midterms is included on page 6 in this edition of the PTO Monthly.

The school cafeteria is open from 7am until 11am with a limited menu during the exams, just in case the students need to grab a bite and/or study a bit.

Happy 2012 to all, with a special congratulations for parents of seniors. In only six more months, you too will be hoping the weather will hold so that your child(ren)'s graduation can be held outside!

Warm regards,

Sarah and Tracey

SCHOOL NEWS

Guidance Department News

Happy New Year from the Guidance Department! Here are January's Guidance Events:

For the Juniors... Class of 2013

On January 4th, the counselors will meet with juniors during period 2 to discuss the College Application Process. This is the student-oriented "follow up" to November's Junior Parent Night. The following week, Juniors will report to computer labs for Naviance training. These events will help prepare 11th graders for their Junior Conference, which will take place in March or April.

For current 8th graders... Class of 2016

Eighth grade parents and students are invited to the Ridge Performing Arts Center on Thursday, January 5th at 7pm for Academic Planning Night. Sean Siet, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, will provide an overview of 9th grade transition, changes in the high school, and the scheduling timetable. Parents will then have an opportunity to meet with subject area Curriculum Supervisors for information regarding specific 9th grade courses.

For AP Students

In mid-January, all AP students will receive a hard copy of the Bulletin for AP Students and Parents during the school day. The Bulletin contains information about AP Exams, their administration, and exam security policies and procedures designed to provide all students with a fair and uniform testing experience. On exam day, all exam-takers sign their answer sheets, indicating that they understand and agree to the policies and procedures in the Bulletin.

Additionally, parents and students should be on the lookout for a letter sent home regarding registration for AP exams. The online system for AP registration will be available January 30th through March 4th. The mailing will provide you with specific information and directions for registering.

For Seniors... Class of 2012

The Guidance Department will automatically send mid-year grades to any college you have applied to. No additional requests are required, and we need no additional forms. These midyear reports go out in mid-February.

[click here to go back to page 1]

Julius Trombino, a Senior, won top honors in the international songwriting contest Song of the Year. His song "How Can You Be So Cold" won the song of the year in the Rock category. He also won a semi-finalist spot with his song "When the Night's Over." You can view this at www.songoftheyear.com.

Ridge Recognition

Accomplishments

Three Ridge students attained perfect scores in the 2nd New Jersey Math League contest in Nov. 2011. Seniors **Christopher D'Arcy** and **Eric Wei** and freshman **Oliver Tang** performed faultlessly!!

Mr. Florance's 4 Physics classes collected a total of 800 pounds of food that was donated to the Community Foodbank during the first week of December.

The Tri-Captains of the Girls Golf Team have been busy in their off-season. Congratulations to: senior **Alexandra Hershberger** who was named to The American Junior Golf Association 2011 HP Scholastic All-American Team; junior **Hana Ku** who qualified for the 2011 USGA Girls Junior National Championship; and senior **Rachel Walsh** who is the 2011 Women's Club Champion at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster.

English teacher **Dave Yastremski**, was selected by the National Communication Association (NCA) as the 2011 recipient of the Marcella E. Oberle Award for Outstanding Teaching in Grades K-12. The award recognizes teachers who have exhibited both outstanding teaching and a commitment to the speech communication profession. Dave received his award during the NCA annual convention in New Orleans, LA in November.

Congratulations to senior **Tyler Gibbons**; he placed 4th in the NJ Cross Country Meet of Champions. This is the highest individual finish for a male Ridge runner. Additionally, Tyler placed 2nd in the Nike North East Regional and was the first Ridge runner to compete in the Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, OR.

The **Girls' Cross Country Team** medaled and placed 6th in the NJ Meet of Champions. The girls' team has earned 10 consecutive trips to the finals and medaled for 6 years in a row – this is the longest streak in New Jersey!!

A committee of 20 soccer coaches from around the country selected senior **Jameson Lochhead** to participate in the 1st Annual High School All-American Soccer Game held on Dec. 10, 2011 in Birmingham, AL. Jameson was one of 37 of the nation's elite boys' high school soccer players to be selected.

The Ridge Drama Club has earned a charter from The Educational Theatre Association! The club and six drama club members are now officially a troupe of The International Thespian Society. **Peter Hughes, Briley Conder, Alex Wilke, Roman Mak, Kristin Johnson** and **Chris Szeluga** earned this privilege based on their achievements in Ridge High School's theatre productions. **Mrs. Megan Kern**, the advisor, is a reinstated professional member of The Educational Theatre Association, an organization supporting theatre education. The International Thespian Society has been honoring excellence in the work of theatre students since 1929. At present there are active ITS troupes in more than 3,900 high schools and middle schools, mostly in the United States and Canada.

Birth Announcement

Vocational Studies Coordinator, **Ken Cherry**, became a Grandpa!! Peyton MacLennan Cherry was born on Oct. 9 to Ken's son and daughter-in-law, Neil and Monica Cherry in Woodland, WA.

- submitted by Mary Ellen Peters

CLUB NEWS

Upcoming Musical!

This spring, the Ridge Drama Club will entertain audiences with "The Secret Garden," based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel of the same name.

It opened on Broadway 20 years ago and starred Mandy Patinkin. It picked up three Tony Awards in 1991, including "Best Supporting Actress" Daisy Eagan, who was eleven at the time and the youngest person ever to receive this award. It's composer, Lucy Simon, is the sister of famed Singer Carley Simon.

The story is about an orphan named Mary who goes to live with her uncle, a recluse, in rural England. With the help of servants and a little magic, Mary transforms everyone's lives as well as the beloved garden of her deceased Aunt Lily.

The musical is appropriate for all ages. Megan Kern - Director; Lyndsey Schaefer - Music Director; Rachel Falis - choreographer; Jason Stewart - Scenic Designer & Technical Director; Jennifer Curran - Orchestra Director; Dave Kern - PAC Manager & Sound and Lighting Director.

We will be reaching out to local flower and gardening stores in order to transform the stage into an enormous garden! There will also be flower and plant sales going on in the lobby during intermission. Anyone interested in donating real or fake flowers, plants or foliage, please email MKern@bernardsboe.com.

Performance dates: March 2-3 at 7:00pm. Tickets will be available soon at www.ridgepac.com.

[click here to go back to page 1]

RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
DANCE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

Winter Dance Showcase 2012

JANUARY 13TH 7 PM

RIDGE
PERFORMING Arts
CENTER

TICKETS \$8 AT DOOR OR
\$7 ONLINE AT RIDGEPAC.COM

From the Principal, from p. 1

Grading! Mention the concept and duck as a myriad of heated opinions come your way. I have yet to find any other topic that can grab the attention of parents, teachers, and students so quickly and be felt so deeply. As a teacher, I had often found, "How is my child being graded?" to be the question most frequently asked and, often, with a sense of apprehension. I continue to have discussions with parents, students and teachers concerning grading and the opinions vary significantly – especially between the parents and the teachers.

Let's break down grading into its key components, excluding factors like item analysis, partial credit and types of assessments. The focus of this analysis will be on assessment failure, late work, homework and academic integrity. I offer points for discussion and not recommendations or solutions.

Assessment Failure

Teachers are taught to monitor and adjust their instruction according to student understanding. At some point the decision to re-teach, review or move on must be made. The issue is that once the test/assessment has been implemented, a decision on how to proceed is made based on the entire classes' performance, and the unsuccessful students are left with a poor grade and a lack of incentive to learn the material. More often than not, if the class average is acceptable, the teacher moves on. Certain students do not learn the material and are "stuck" with a poor grade. Should students be given the opportunity to "recover" from this grade? Even partially? Some teachers offer re-takes for assessments, while others allow students to demonstrate knowledge of missed concepts to gain a percentage of the points back. For instance, a student misses 40% of the assessment questions and the teacher allows them to recover half of that through some other means. Some believe that this practice is enabling and detrimental to teaching students responsibility.

Late Work

"If it was a train, you would have missed it," a teacher once said to me as I tried, without success, to hand in a late assignment. My thought of course was, "But it isn't a train!" I digress. But seriously, why so rigid? Why can't students hand in late work? OK, granted, at some

point it is too late, but certainly there might be some type of grace period that would allow students to re-coop some of their losses resulting from work being handed in late, while allowing them to learn through completion of the material. Does a "zero" really make sense? Doesn't this let the student off the hook? Wouldn't making the student do late or missed assignments be a better consequence? There is a real world application many times over here. If I didn't pay my taxes, would the IRS tell me that it was too late and that I couldn't pay? I am sure that I would need to pay the tax and a little bit more. Outside of schools, there are very few instances where failure to complete a task results in not having to complete the task.

Homework

How much should homework count in the final grade calculation? This is another subject about which there are varying opinions. I believe that homework is a great indicator of a student's effort in a class. I have also encountered teachers who use "differentiated" grading, where a student who has difficulties with formal testing is graded more heavily on homework than the student who doesn't have this issue, and the opposite for students



who have more difficulty completing homework assignments. The recently proposed homework policy for grades 9 – 12 includes a provision which states, "[Homework] assignments should be discussed, checked and, when appropriate, corrected and returned." I think this is of the utmost importance. Certainly homework should be aligned with course ob-

jectives and the other provisions of the policy; however, if you want to motivate students to complete homework, the assignments need to carry weight.

Academic Integrity

Much like late work, is it really a beneficial consequence to just assign a zero for an assignment where a student failed to adhere to the rules of academic integrity? The current RHS policy has the student receiving a zero on the test/assignment and serving a Saturday detention. Increases in offenses involving academic integrity have some individuals recommending harsher consequences. Should part of the consequence be the student completing the assignment? Some agree – some don't.

I would appreciate your input on any of the subjects addressed.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

[click here to go back to page 1]

Ridge Skate Night

Come out for a fun evening of ice skating! The Ridge Ice Hockey Association is hosting a skate night for all. Whether you are a beginner or an old pro, join us for some ice skating fun. Bring a friend! All profits benefit the Ridge Ice Hockey Association and ice hockey teams at Ridge High School. You may even get to skate with your favorite Ridge Hockey player!!

**Friday, February 3rd
7:30-9pm**

Bridgewater Sports Arena

**\$7 per skater or \$10 including skate rentals
(payments made at the door)**

Ridge Hockey Spiritwear will be sold.

Come early to get your admission ticket and get rental skates.

For more information contact Sarah Fenton at swarren327@aol.com.

Mid-Term Exam Schedule

Wednesday, January 25

Period 1 Exam.....	7:45-9:45
Period 2.....	9:57-10:27
Period 3.....	10:31-11:01
Period 4.....	11:05-11:35
Period 5.....	11:39-12:09
Period 6.....	12:13-12:43
Period 7.....	12:47-1:17
Period 8.....	1:21-1:51
Period 9.....	1:55-2:25

Thursday, January 26

Period 2 Exam.....	7:35-9:35
Break.....	9:35-9:55
Period 3 Exam.....	9:55-11:55
Early Dismissal.....	12:00
Extra help sessions or make-up exams.....	12:25-2:25

Friday, January 27

Period 4 Exam.....	7:35-9:35
Break.....	9:35-9:55
Period 5 Exam.....	9:55-11:55
Early Dismissal.....	12:00
Extra help sessions or make-up exams.....	12:25-2:25

Monday, January 30

Period 6 Exam.....	7:35-9:35
Break.....	9:35-9:55
Period 7 Exam.....	9:55-11:55
Early Dismissal.....	12:00
Extra help sessions or make-up exams.....	12:25-2:25

Tuesday, January 31

Period 8 Exam.....	7:35-9:35
Break.....	9:35-9:55
Period 9 Exam.....	9:55-11:55
Early Dismissal.....	12:00
Extra help sessions or make-up exams.....	12:25-2:25



Fall Dance Master Classes Finish with a Fine Number from Fosse!

Gerry McIntyre (Center) posing with students from Ridge and William Annin who participated in the Fosse Master Class.

The Fall Master Dance Class Series finished with Broadway veteran and performer Gerry McIntyre. Gerry is an alumni of Montclair State University and has performed in many Broadway shows, such as *Anything Goes*, *Once On This Island* and *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolored Dreamcoat*. Gerry brought his expertise and knowledge of the Fosse style to Ridge at the end of November. He taught choreography to "Dancing Man" from the *Dancin'*. Students from William Annin Middle School and Ridge High School enjoyed learning this very detailed and intricate style. "Dancing Man" will be performed in the Winter Dance Showcase 2012 on January 13th at 7pm in Ridge PAC. The Spring Master Class Series will be announced in January. Contact Ms. Falis at rfalis@bernardsboe.com for more information. Come and experience dance at Ridge!

[click to go back to p. 1]